

Women's Day 2026 Logo Revealed



The Supreme Council for Women has unveiled the visual identity for Bahrain Women's Day 2026, held this year under the theme "Twenty-Five Years at the Heart of the Reform Project."

The identity commemorates the Silver Jubilee of the council's establishment and highlights its role in supporting women's participation in Bahrain's development journey. The logo features the number 25 surrounded by a wreath, symbolising a quarter century of achievements.

Bahrain Condemns Terror Attacks in Russia and Pakistan



The Kingdom of Bahrain has strongly condemned two separate terrorist attacks that struck the Russian and Pakistan, describing both incidents as cowardly acts of violence targeting innocent civilians and those sworn to protect public safety.

The first attack involved an improvised explosive device detonated inside a restaurant in Kudrinskaya Square in central Moscow, resulting in a number of deaths and injuries. The second was a suicide bombing targeting a police station in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in northwestern Pakistan, which also left several people dead and others wounded.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued statements on both attacks, extending the Kingdom's sincere condolences and sympathies to the governments and peoples of Russia and Pakistan, as well as to the families of all those killed.

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New Security Training School Opens

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Interior Minister His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa inaugurated the new building of the Security Guards Training School, reaffirming that training and professional development remain key pillars of Bahrain's security sector.

Upon arrival, the Interior Minister unveiled the commemorative plaque, officially opening the new facility. This facility provides essential services including issuing licences for private security and guard companies, as well as qualification and training programmes for personnel working in the sector.

He emphasised that the future belongs to institutions that invest in efficiency, preparedness, human capabilities, science and technology.

Shaikh Rashid highlighted that training and development are fundamental elements of security work, stressing the importance of adopting modern scientific methods and international training standards to enhance capabilities and address evolving security challenges.

He said the opening of the new Security Guards Training School building is part of a comprehensive strategic plan aimed at improving security performance and ensuring a safe environment for citizens and residents.

During the visit, the minister



was briefed on the school's services, including its electronic systems and integration with the National Suggestions and Complaints System and the "Mawaeed" appointment system.

The Security Guards Training School has trained more than 22,000 personnel since its es-

tablishment, while around 2,150 security employees completed foundation and refresher training programmes during 2025.

Each training course has a capacity of approximately 278 participants, supporting Bahrain's efforts to enhance the professionalism and readiness of security personnel.



Strengthening Gulf Maritime Security

GCC maritime cooperation key to safeguarding navigation and stability

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Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force, visited the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Unified Maritime Operations Centre, where he was briefed on its operations, responsibilities and role in enhancing regional maritime security.

During the visit, Lieutenant General Al Nuaimi received an overview of the centre's activities, including monitoring maritime movements across the region, coordinating between GCC naval forces, assessing potential maritime threats and developing oper-

ational plans to address emerging challenges.

Operating under the GCC Unified Military Command, the centre uses advanced naval systems and works closely with the naval forces of GCC member states and partner countries to support the protection of vital shipping routes and sea lanes.

Lieutenant General Al Nuaimi praised the centre as a reflection of the strong defence cooperation among GCC countries, highlighting its important role in strengthening military coordination and integration between regional naval forces.

He said the centre contributes to maritime security and region-



al stability by improving joint coordination, enhancing naval readiness and supporting safe navigation in the Arabian Gulf.

The Chief of Staff also com-

mended the efforts of the GCC naval personnel working at the centre, praising their professionalism and efficiency in addressing maritime risks and challenges.

Strait of Hormuz Dispute

Trump: Iran Cannot Escape Nuclear Deal Pressure

US President Donald Trump accused Iran's leadership of being "unbelievably duplicitous," claiming Tehran seeks negotiations while publicly denying discussions are taking place.

In a statement, Trump said Iranian officials had requested a meeting and that talks had started, with further discussions planned in the near future. However, he alleged that Iran was simultaneously claiming

no negotiations were underway and that it was only engaging with Oman.

"Whether Iran wants to admit it or not, we are, in fact, talking of a

solution to a problem that they have caused, for decades," Trump said.

Trump also rejected Iranian statements regarding control of the Strait of Hormuz, saying the strategic waterway is effectively under US naval control.

He claimed the United States established what he described as a "blockade" or a "Wall of Steel," preventing supplies from reaching Iran unless Washington allows it.

"The Strait of Hormuz will be operated powerfully by them"—referring to Iran's claims—"when it is already completely controlled by the United States Navy," Trump said.

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HM King Expresses Solidarity with Egypt After Earthquake



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa held a telephone call with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, expressing Bahrain's solidarity with Egypt following the recent earthquake.

His Majesty wished the Egyptian people safety and wellbeing, while the two leaders reviewed Bahrain-Egypt relations and ways to further strengthen cooperation in support of their shared interests.

Youth Development Drive Continues



Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amna bint Ahmed Al Romaihi visited Youth City 2030 to review its programmes and initiatives aimed at developing youth skills and preparing them for future opportunities.

The minister toured training centres and highlighted the importance of government cooperation in supporting youth development, innovation and leadership through national initiatives.

Improving Medical Data Accuracy



Supreme Council of Health President Lieutenant General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa visited the Clinical Classification and Health Records Group at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

He stressed the importance of strengthening health information systems, improving medical data accuracy and developing national expertise to enhance healthcare planning and patient services.

Minister Checks Noon Work Ban

Daily inspections ensure worker safety during peak summer temperatures

- Employers praised for strong adherence to the summer midday work ban
- Inspections focus on heat stress prevention, drinking water, rest breaks and occupational safety
- Daily inspections continue, with violations referred for legal action

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Minister of Labour and Minister of Legal Affairs, Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, conducted a field inspection of several construction sites to assess compliance with the Kingdom's summer midday work ban aimed at protecting workers from extreme heat.

The visit focused on implementing Ministerial Decision No. (5) of 2026, which prohibits outdoor work under direct sunlight and in open areas between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., from June 15 to August 31, 2026.

During the tour, the minister reviewed the safety measures adopted at the worksites and met with occupational safety supervisors to discuss efforts



to maintain safe working conditions. He stressed the importance of continuously strengthening workplace safety to reduce occupational injuries and heat stress during the summer months.

Khalaf commended the high level of compliance demonstrated by companies, noting it reflects employers' awareness of their responsibility to provide a safe and healthy working environment while protecting workers from heat stress risks.

He noted that the commitment also highlights Bahrain's dedication to promoting occupational safety and health standards while fostering a productive work environment.

The Ministry of Labour's inspection teams continue to carry out daily site visits during the restricted hours to ensure establishments comply with the regulations. Inspectors also verify the provision of heat stress prevention measures, including adequate drinking water, suitable rest breaks, and other occupational safety and health requirements. The ministry said any violations detected during inspections will be referred to the competent judicial authorities for legal action in accordance with the law.

Government Strengthens Investment in Youth Media

Minister praises Youth City 2030 as a platform for nurturing future media professionals



Bahrain's commitment to developing the next generation of media professionals took centre stage as Information Minister Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi visited Youth City 2030 at Exhibition World Bahrain, alongside Youth Affairs Minister Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi.

Dr. Al Noaimi described Youth City 2030 as one of Bahrain's leading youth empowerment initiatives, noting that its integrated training environment and strategic partnerships have created valuable opportunities to develop skills and discover emerging talent.

He also commended the close collaboration between the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Youth Affairs, saying the partnership reflects Team Bahrain's unified



approach to implementing initiatives that invest in young people and prepare them for future careers across diverse sectors.

During the tour, the minister visited media-focused workshops and training programmes, where participants gain hands-on experience in journalism, broadcasting and digital media.

Dr. Al Noaimi reaffirmed the Ministry of Information's commitment to expanding programmes that support young Bahraini talent and strengthen youth participation in the media industry. He said empowering young people is essential to building a modern national media sector capable of producing professional content that reflects Bahrain's identity, values and aspirations while keeping pace with rapid developments in the global media landscape.

New Water Station to Boost Southern Governorate Supply

11.25 million-gallon facility in Wadi Al Buhair to strengthen water security and support growing communities



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Hasan Barakat

A new water distribution station with a storage capacity of 11.25 million imperial gallons is under construction in Wadi Al Buhair, aimed at enhancing water security and meeting the growing demand in Bahrain's Southern Governorate.

Southern Municipal Council Chairman Abdulla Ebrahim Abdullatif said the Hunainiya station will support nearby residential areas, including Blocks 901, 905 and 907, while improving the efficiency and reliability of water distribution as urban development continues.

The project includes a 10 million imperial gallon ground reservoir, a 1.25 million imperial gallon elevated tank serving East Riffa, a main pumping station, utility facilities and advanced operation systems.

The station will connect to the Electricity and Water Authority's control centre through SCADA technology and fibre-optic networks, enabling 24-hour monitoring and faster responses to emergencies.

Expected to be completed by December 2027, the project is set to become a key addition to the Southern Governorate's infrastructure, supporting future housing developments and the needs of expanding communities.



Community Honours Ambassador



The Embassy of India in Bahrain hosted an interaction on Monday evening, bringing together representatives of Indian community associations and painting artists to engage with Ambassador Vinod K. Jacob and reflect on the Embassy's initiatives.

The gathering allowed members of the Indian community to share

their memories, experiences and moments with Ambassador Jacob during his tenure in Bahrain. Representatives from various community organisations expressed their appreciation for his support and active engagement with the Indian diaspora. Artists who collaborated with the Embassy on cultural initiatives also participated, highlighting the

role of art in strengthening cultural ties between India and Bahrain. During the interaction, attendees conveyed their heartfelt wishes and greetings to Ambassador Jacob, thanking him for his dedication to the welfare of the Indian community and for promoting cultural and people-to-people connections throughout his tenure.



Amwaj Avenue Moves Into Construction Phase

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Naseej has officially commenced infrastructure works for its flagship Amwaj Avenue project at the entrance of Amwaj Islands in Muharraq Governorate, marking the start of construction for one of the company's major mixed-use developments.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by senior officials, including Bassem bin Yaqoob Al Hamar, President of the Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB); Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Khayyat, Chief Executive of the Urban Planning and Development Authority (UPDA); and Amin Al Arrayed, Chief Executive Officer of Naseej.

Al Hamar said the project reflects the continued expansion of Bahrain's real estate sector and highlights the importance of public-private partnerships in driving urban development.

He stressed SLRB's commitment to supporting developers



through streamlined procedures, faster transactions, and the issuance of title deeds to improve project readiness and strengthen the investment environment.

Al Khayyat described the groundbreaking as a significant milestone, signalling the project's move from the planning stage to implementation.

He reaffirmed UPDA's commitment to promoting sustainable urban development through strategic projects and continued cooperation with private sec-

tor partners. Naseej CEO Amin Al Arrayed said Amwaj Avenue represents one of the company's key mixed-use developments and aligns with its vision of creating integrated and sustainable communities. He praised the support provided by UPDA and SLRB in helping advance the project towards execution.

The first phase of the development will focus on constructing roads, utilities and essential infrastructure.

Amwaj Avenue Project

- Project Area: Approximately 125,000 square metres
- Residential Plots : 253 plots
- Investment Plots: 27 plots
- First Phase: Construction of roads, utilities and essential infrastructure
- Development Type: Mixed-use project combining residential and investment opportunities

Dreamers, Doers, Achievers

Young Bahrainis Who Are Changing the World Around Them

● **Ministry of Education highlights inspiring stories of students excelling in science, sports and social initiatives**

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

One builds machines in a home laboratory. One collects table tennis medals across three countries. One turned her own battle with cancer into a lifeline for other children. Three students, three very different stories, all featured in the Ministry of Education’s “Our Students Inspiring Stories” campaign.

Sayed Mohammed Sayed Hadi Ebrahim, a third-year intermediate student at Al Bilad Al Qadeem Intermediate Boys School, is turning curiosity into innovation — one invention at a time.

Spending countless hours experimenting between his school laboratory and a home lab he built himself under the guidance of science teacher Jaffar Hasan Al Zayer, Sayed Mohammed has transformed ideas into

practical solutions designed to improve everyday life.

Among his creations is a multi-purpose “green car” capable of ploughing land, planting seeds and automatically irrigating crops while analysing soil conditions. He has also developed a smart sunflower-inspired device that follows sunlight to improve energy efficiency, along with a remote security system using sensors and cameras to alert property owners about potential gas leaks and fires.

Perhaps his most meaningful invention is a school bus safety system equipped with seat sensors, designed to help ensure that no child is accidentally left behind. He is also working on a project aimed at reducing electricity consumption in school buildings.

For Hessa Abdulrahman of Al Orouba Primary Girls School, success has come through determination, discipline and a table tennis paddle.

The young athlete has built an impressive sporting record



Sayed Mohammed Sayed Hadi Ebrahim

The young inventor is developing a seat-monitoring system for school buses, using technology to improve safety procedures and provide an additional layer of protection for students.



Hessa Abdulrahman

Hessa’s 2025-2026 season included a series of international achievements, including podium finishes at the West Asia Under-11 Championship and the Arab Championships in Morocco.



Ruqaya Abdulraouf Ebrahim Ashkanani

Turning personal adversity into a mission of hope, Ruqaya has created awareness content, coordinated messages from influencers and visited young patients to offer emotional support and encouragement.

ence with cancer, Ruqaya launched an initiative dedicated to supporting children facing the disease, using her voice to spread awareness and encouragement.

Through social media campaigns, she shares messages of hope, collects supportive video messages from influencers and public figures, and raises awareness about the challenges faced by young cancer patients. Her efforts earned her an invitation to participate in the One Billion Followers Summit in the UAE.

Beyond awareness, Ruqaya personally visits young patients, offering encouragement, listening to their stories and bringing small gifts to brighten their days. “My goal is to deliver my voice, and the voice of every cancer fighter, to the world, and to show that we can overcome hardship,” she said.

Together, Sayed Mohammed, Hessa and Ruqaya represent a new generation of Bahraini students — creative thinkers, determined champions and compassionate leaders whose achievements extend far beyond the classroom.

that extends beyond Bahrain’s borders, collecting medals at major regional and international competitions.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, Hessa secured third place at the West Asia Under-11 Championship, finished runner-up at the Arab Under-11

Championship in Morocco, and claimed the Under-13 team and girls’ doubles titles at the same event.

Her achievements continued with a second-place finish at an international Under-11 tournament in Qatar, third place at the WTT Youth Contender in

Dubai, and her second Bahrain primary schools championship title — following previous victories in 2023 and 2025. Ruqaya Abdulraouf Ebrahim Ashkanani of Busaiteen Intermediate Girls School, personal hardship became a source of hope for others.

Inspired by her own experi-

Hunt for Underwater Heritage

Bahrain and Japan Join Forces to Explore Sunken Heritage



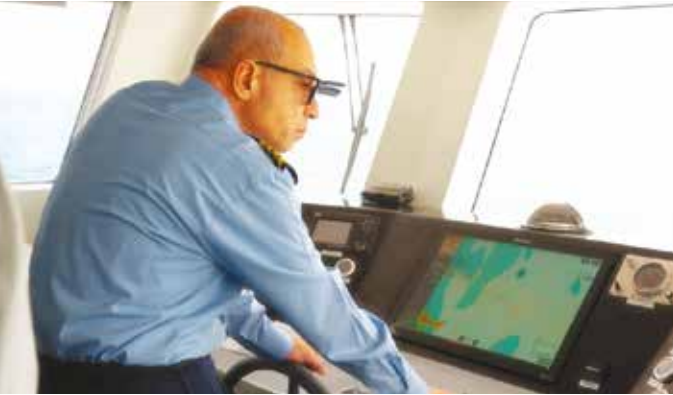
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Bahrain has launched a landmark underwater archaeological research initiative, bringing together the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), the Survey and Land Registration Bureau (SLRB), and Japan’s Teikyo University Institute of Cultural Property Research.

The partnership aims to use advanced technology to locate, document, and study submerged archaeological remains and historic shipwrecks in Bahraini waters — shedding new light on the Kingdom’s deep-rooted maritime history.

BACA President Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa said the initiative reflects the authority’s commitment to heritage preservation, adding that such partnerships open new horizons for archaeological research and documentation.

He said the collaboration extends beyond fieldwork, offering a platform to explore Bahrain’s maritime culture by combining cutting-edge technology



with archaeological expertise.

The initiative also highlights the enduring bond between Bahrain and the sea — a defining feature of the Kingdom’s identity and cultural heritage

shaped across centuries.

Officials said the project marks a significant step in advancing Bahrain’s archaeological research methods and uncovering its historical legacy.

Food Costs Push Living Index Up 0.9pc

June rise matches January as highest monthly increase recorded in first half of 2026

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Food prices drove the cost-of-living index up 0.9pc in June, matching January’s rise as the sharpest monthly increase in the first half of 2026. Food prices drove the cost-of-living index up 0.9pc in June, matching January’s rise as the sharpest monthly increase in the first half of 2026.

Food and non-alcoholic drinks leapt 6.5pc from May, the largest rise among all spending groups that month and the chief cause of the climb in the consumer price index.

Recreation and culture costs rose by 1.2pc, while alcoholic drinks and tobacco went up by 0.7pc. Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels were 0.5pc dearer, with furniture, household equipment and routine home repairs edging up by 0.1pc.

The index rose in four of the first six months of the year. It fell in February and was unchanged in April.

June’s rise came after a 0.4pc increase in May, when restaurants and hotels led the way with a 1.1pc rise.

Furniture, household equipment and home repair costs climbed by 0.9pc, followed by food and non-alcoholic drinks at 0.7pc. Clothing and footwear rose by 0.3pc, as did housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels.

April brought no change in the headline index, but the figures beneath it told a different story. Recreation and culture costs soared by 22.5pc, the largest



June 2026 Price Index

- Overall consumer price index: +0.9pc
- Main driver: Food and non-alcoholic drinks
- Food price increase: +6.5pc
- Recreation and culture: +1.2pc
- Alcoholic drinks and tobacco: +0.7pc
- Housing and utilities: +0.5pc
- Furniture and household equipment: +0.1pc

monthly rise for any spending group during the first half of the year.

Restaurants and hotels rose by 1.5pc, transport by 0.9pc and alcoholic drinks and tobacco by 0.6pc. Furniture, household equipment and routine home repairs increased by 0.4pc. The index had risen by 0.4pc in March, after food and non-alcoholic drink prices jumped by 4.8pc.

Transport costs went up by 1.3pc and communication prices by 0.2pc. Education prices did not change.

February was the only month in the six-month spell to show a fall in the headline rate, though several household costs still went up.

Clothing and footwear rose by 1.5pc, miscellaneous goods and services by 1.1pc and alcoholic drinks and tobacco by 0.5pc. Housing and communication costs each increased by 0.3pc.

January opened the year with a 0.9pc rise from December 2025.

Recreation and culture prices climbed by 5.9pc, transport by 3.5pc and restaurants and hotels by 1.3pc. Miscellaneous goods and services rose by 1.1pc, while communication costs increased by 0.3pc. Across the half-year, the biggest price rises were seen in food and non-alcoholic drinks, recreation and culture, restaurants and hotels, transport, household goods and housing costs.

NBB Organises Youth City 2030 Visit for EVOLVE Interns



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The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) recently organised a visit to the 2026 edition of Youth City 2030 for more than 50 students from its EVOLVE summer internship programme. The interns gained an overview of the learning stations across Youth City 2030, which are designed to develop the youth's knowledge, personal capabilities and professional skills. They also toured the classroom bearing NBB's name while engaging with training opportunities covering diverse topics and areas of interest.

As part of the experience, the Bank arranged a soft skills training session for the participants, followed by activities across several sports including tennis, golf, badminton, basketball, and football. This combination of events encouraged communication, teamwork, and engagement in an interactive setting. The visit forms part of NBB's platinum sponsorship of Youth City 2030, organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs. By connecting EVOLVE participants with another national youth platform, the Bank continues to broaden their exposure beyond the workplace and provide experiences that support informed choices, practical learning, and continued personal development.

Alba and INJAZ Bahrain Inspire Future Leaders Through Annual Summer Camp



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Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba), the world's largest aluminium smelter on one site, reaffirmed its commitment to developing Bahraini youth through its annual Summer Camp held for employees' children, organised in collaboration with INJAZ Bahrain from 26 July to 01 August at Alba Club and INJAZ Bahrain Headquarters. The six-day programme brought together more than 60 children aged 14 to 18 and was delivered by volunteers from Alba as well as INJAZ Bahrain's staff. Through interactive sessions based on INJAZ Bahrain's programmes, including Innovation Camp, Toastmasters, Finance Park, and Career Walk, the Camp equipped participants with essential leadership, communication and career-development skills. It also included educational visits to the University Medical Center of King Abdulla Medical City and the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB).

Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Ali Al Baqali, and other Company and INJAZ Bahrain senior officials visited the Camp throughout the programme to engage with participants, sharing valuable insights on leadership, career development, and life lessons. The programme marked the first of two summer camps planned for this year, with a second one scheduled for August and tailored to a younger age group. Through such initiatives, Alba continues to invest in the development of future generations and support the growth of Bahrain's youth.



JETOUR Bahrain Powers the Warm-Up Zone at Sports City

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JETOUR Bahrain, operating under JMC Al Jazeera Motors by Motorcity, is proud to share its participation in Sports City 2026 through an interactive activation centered around the event's CrossFit activities, showcasing the capabilities of the JETOUR G700. As part of the initiative, the JETOUR Warm-Up Zone is powered directly by the G700, including the fitness equipment used by participants before their training sessions. This demonstration highlights the vehicle's advanced external power capabilities, showcasing its ability to serve as a reliable portable power source across various outdoor environments.



"Sports City provides the perfect opportunity to demonstrate how the JETOUR G700 delivers practical innovation beyond the road," commented Manaf Kassem, Jetour Bahrain Dealer Principal. "By powering the Warm-Up Zone, we're giving visitors the opportunity to experience one of the vehicle's standout features in a real-world setting while supporting the local fitness community."

The initiative reflects JETOUR Bahrain's ongoing commitment to supporting community events while highlighting innovative technologies that enhance the versatility of its vehicles beyond the road.



New Online Service Tracks Large AC and Refrigeration Units

SCE introduced a central database to improve inspections, compliance and environmental protection

- SCE launches digital AC registration
- New service boosts environmental compliance
- Processing time cut from 20 days to 5

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

The Supreme Council for the Environment (SCE) has launched a new digital service for registering large refrigeration and air conditioning units, strengthening environmental monitoring and compliance efforts. The "Large Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Units Registration Request Service" enables licensed facilities to register units with a cooling capacity exceeding 15 refrigeration tons, including industrial air conditioning and refrigeration systems. The service supports the proper management of refrigerant gases through recovery and recycling, helping reduce emissions in line with Bahrain's environmental legislation and the requirements of the Montreal Protocol.

It also provides a central database for facilities to search registered units and regularly update their information, enhancing monitoring, inspections and environmental compliance. The fully automated service has reduced processing time from 20 working days to five days, while simplifying procedures and improving the user experience. Professor Amna Hamad Al Rumaihi, CEO of the SCE, said the initiative strengthens oversight of controlled refrigeration materials, improves data accuracy and supports Bahrain's obligations under the Montreal Protocol. The service forms part of Bahrain's government digital transformation efforts, which have seen more than 1,300 services documented and published, with 800 services developed and re-engineered across government sectors.



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From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Man Charged with Stealing Delivery Bike



The First High Criminal Court has begun hearing the case of a 43-year-old man accused of stealing a delivery motorcycle after allegedly threatening a delivery worker with a knife in Isa Town. Police investigations identified the suspect, who reportedly has previous criminal convictions. The delivery worker later identified him during the investigation. The court adjourned the case until August 10 to bring the defendant from detention.

Student Fined BD1,100



The Court of Cassation has upheld a BD1,100 fine against a university student convicted of causing a 3% permanent disability to a university employee and insulting three staff members while they were carrying out their duties. The case stemmed from an October 2025 incident in which the student entered a faculty-only restroom and became involved in a dispute with university employees. As she left an office, she forcefully opened a door, fracturing an employee's wrist and causing a permanent disability, according to a forensic report. The court also upheld her conviction for verbally insulting three university staff members, while the employee's civil compensation claim has been referred to the competent civil court.

BisB Introduces Advanced Digital Solutions to Enhance Corporate Customer

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Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of innovative Islamic financial solutions for simplifying money matters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has announced the launch of a suite of advanced digital banking solutions for its corporate and SME clients. The announcement underscores the Bank's continued commitment to accelerating digital transformation across core corporate banking services and delivering more seamless banking experiences.

The newly launched solutions include a fully digital Cash Margin Letter of Guarantee service, positioning BisB among the first banks in Bahrain to offer this capability through online banking. Corporate clients can submit Letter of Guarantee cash

margin requests digitally, with automated calculation of margin amounts and fees, secure authentication, document uploads feature, and real-time tracking of request status, resulting in greater transparency, enhanced compliance, and a more streamlined process.

The Bank has also automated audit confirmation service. The solution enables corporate clients to submit audit confirmation requests through online banking, with fees deducted automatically and confirmations sent securely and directly to external auditors. The service also features a multi-user review and approval mechanism, strengthening oversight and supporting robust corporate governance.

For its corporate and SME clients, BisB has launched fully automated opening of Special Investment Deposit (Wakala



Yousif Ali Engineer, Acting Chief Corporate and Institutional Banking Officer at BisB

accounts. The service offers immediate access to profit rates and the ability to select renewal options in line with each client's requirements, all within a secure digital environment that adheres to regulatory standards.

Completing the digital suite, BisB has introduced new fea-



tures that simplify international transfers and enhance overall customer experience. Designed to accelerate execution, reduce manual intervention, and im-

prove operational efficiency, the solution offers clients a smoother digital experience alongside competitive rates across a range of currencies.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Yousif Ali Engineer, Acting Chief Corporate and Institutional Banking Officer at BisB, stated, "This suite of new digital solutions marks another important step in BisB's journey to enhance the corporate banking experience. By automating several core processes, we continue to empower our Corporate and

SME clients to complete their transactions with greater speed and efficiency, while further reinforcing security and transparency."

He added, "These initiatives reflect our digital-first focus as we continue to develop innovative banking solutions that respond to the evolving needs of the business sector. Through secure and innovative channels, we are offering clients greater ease, stronger control, and increased flexibility with every banking interaction."

The new services are now available to BisB's corporate and SME clients, with plans in place to introduce additional enhancements, including support for new currencies, more advanced treasury management tools, and other integrated solutions that address the growing banking requirements of businesses.

New Partnerships Explored to Empower People of Determination

Meeting highlights "Athar+" initiative to empower and showcase their talents



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Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, Nabeel Kanoo received the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bahraini Center for International Mobility, Adel Sultan Al Mutawa, and the Director of the Centre of Her Highness Shaikha Zainab Radhi as part of the Chamber's ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement with civil society organizations and support initiatives that contribute to sustainable development.

The meeting explored ways to enhance communication and community partnerships between the Bahrain Chamber and relevant stakeholders. Discussions also focused on the "Athar+" initiative, which aims to support and empower People of Determination in the Kingdom of Bahrain by promoting their active participation in

society and highlighting their talents and capabilities across various fields.

Kanoo emphasized the importance of unifying the efforts of the private sector and civil society organizations to support initiatives that improve quality of life and promote equal opportunities. He noted that corporate social responsibility is a fundamental pillar of the private sector's role in serving the community and contributing to the Kingdom's comprehensive development goals.



The meeting also highlighted the importance of showcasing successful corporate social responsibility models and encouraging business owners and commercial establishments to adopt practical initiatives and programs that address the needs of People of Determination, support their social and economic inclusion, and reflect

the Kingdom of Bahrain's deeply rooted humanitarian and national values.

The meeting was attended by First Vice Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber Youssef Salahuddin, Treasurer of the Bahrain Chamber, Ahmed Sabah Al Salloom, and Board Members Shaker Al Helli, Bob Thaker, Sawsan Abu Al Hassan, and Rashad Ibrahim Zainal.

Bahrain Chamber Strengthens Healthcare Collaboration

Joint Efforts Planned to Strengthen the Industry



Chamber Chairman Nabeel Kanoo receives Bahrain Medical Society President Dr. Amer Al Derazi.

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Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, Nabeel Kanoo, received the President of the Bahrain Medical Society, Dr. Amer Ibrahim Al Derazi, and the Senior Business Development Manager for Associations, International Federations and Conferences at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre, Ms. Maryam Ibrahim to discuss areas of mutual cooperation and ways to strengthen the healthcare sector's contribution to the national economy.

During the meeting, Kanoo highlighted the importance of developing ideas and initiatives to expand and enhance the organization of specialized medical conferences and events. He noted that such efforts would

further reinforce the Kingdom of Bahrain's position as a leading destination for regional and international healthcare conferences and exhibitions, while also supporting economic activity, tourism, and the related service sectors.

Kanoo also affirmed the Chamber's commitment to strengthening coordination with relevant stakeholders to address observations and challenges facing the healthcare sector, contributing to smoother business operations and ensuring the availability of healthcare services and products in line with the highest standards.

For his part, Dr. Al Derazi expressed his aspiration to continue cooperation with the Bahrain Chamber, emphasizing that the concept of the health economy is gaining increasing

global importance due to the opportunities it offers to enhance the healthcare sector's contribution to national economic growth.

He added that the Bahrain Medical Society looks forward to working closely with the Chamber to support high-quality initiatives, promote the Kingdom of Bahrain's presence at international forums, and strengthen public health awareness.

The meeting was attended by the First Vice President of the Bahrain Chamber, Youssef Salahuddin, the Treasurer of the Bahrain Chamber, Ahmed Sabah Al Salloom, and Board Members Bob Thaker, Shaker Mirza Al Helli, Sonia Mohammed Janahi, Sawsan Abu Al Hassan, and Rashid Ibrahim Zainal.

Gold Sales Rise as Silver Demand Slumps

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Mohammed Darwish

Gold buying has gained momentum across Bahrain as families prepare for the wedding season, while silver demand has fallen sharply despite lower prices.

Jewellers said 21-carat gold was priced at BD43 per gram on Saturday, down from more than BD60 about six months ago, encouraging buyers to return.

Gold was trading at \$4,044.63 an ounce after the US Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged.

Bridal jewellery and gold bars are leading sales. Families are purchasing wedding sets for celebrations during Rabi Al Awwal, while investors are buying bullion to safeguard savings amid market uncertainty.

Silver, however, continues to struggle. A kilogram now costs about BD800, compared with

nearly BD1,400 previously, but demand has dropped by around 80 per cent.

Mohammed Al Kuwaiti of Almerriyah Jewellery said the lower gold price had boosted sales, with many customers worried prices could rise again. He added that demand for wedding jewellery and gold bars remained strong.

Hussain Al Natai of Al Safa Jewellery said gold sales were steady, although regional ten-

sions and the summer travel season had slightly reduced customer numbers. Some buyers were still waiting in the hope of further price declines.

Ali Al Sayegh of Al Ghadriya Jewellery said younger women increasingly viewed gold as both jewellery and a long-term investment, while daily purchases of gold bars reflected growing interest in preserving wealth.

Investment researcher Talal Ramadan said the Federal Re-



serve's decision to leave rates unchanged had reduced market uncertainty, while ongoing geo-

political tensions continued to support demand for gold as a safe-haven asset.

Heavily-pregnant woman dies after Turkey balcony fall, husband held



AFP | Ankara, Turkey

A heavily pregnant woman died after falling from the balcony of her home in western Turkey, with police detaining her husband, state news agency Anadolu reported yesterday.

The 35-year-old woman, who was eight months pregnant, died late on Sunday.

A Sudanese national, she was living with her husband in a fourth-floor flat in the city of Bursa.

Her husband, 37, who was home at the time of the incident with their three-year-old daughter, was taken into custody with police opening an investigation, it said.

The husband told police that his wife had jumped out of the bedroom window.

In his testimony, he told police he met his wife in Sudan and they had been married for

five years.

He admitted to solvent abuse, saying the habit often caused fights including one on Sunday night.

Two neighbours also reported hearing sounds of a fight, Anadolu said.

Turkey does not publish figures on femicides, leaving the task to women's organisations that collect data on murders and other deaths under suspicious circumstances from news reports.

Figures from We Will Stop Femicides show that in the first seven months of this year, 215 women were killed or found dead in suspicious circumstances.

Last year, 294 women were killed by men with another 297 dying in suspicious circumstances, such as falling from a balcony -- which is frequently classed by the authorities as suicide or an unsolved death.

Trump tells Iranians to make deal or **surrender**

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump lashed out yesterday after Iran denied it was in negotiations with the United States, declaring in an angry social media post that a US military blockade will continue until there is a "Deal, or Total surrender."

Calling Iran "duplicitous" for "openly and proudly" saying it was not negotiating, Trump wrote: "Whether Iran wants to admit it or not, we are, in fact, talking of a solution to a problem that they have caused, for decades."

Trump's statement on Truth Social came after Iran said there were no direct talks with Washington, as Trump had insisted there would



AFP | Tokyo, Japan

Oil prices fall nearly 5%

Oil prices tumbled yesterday in early Asia trade after US President Donald Trump announced fresh talks with Iran to end the Middle East war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

The war, which began in

late February when the United States and Israel attacked Iran, has caused oil prices to swing sharply as it effectively closed the waterway, a vital route for global oil and gas supplies.

At around 2250 GMT on Sunday, the price of a barrel of Brent North Sea, the benchmark international oil contract, for September delivery was down 4.69 percent at \$83.81.

Its American equivalent, West Texas Intermediate, fell 4.67 percent to \$80.72.

Trump said on Sunday that

fresh negotiations with Iran will begin on Monday after holding off on major strikes against the Islamic republic to pursue a deal.

"Now what we're doing is we're talking to them in the form of a negotiation. It begins tomorrow afternoon," he said, without providing further details of the venue of the talks or the participants.

Hours after the US had called off major strikes Iran on Sunday said it was nearing a deal with Oman over a new route through the Strait of Hormuz.

be when he called off a threatened round of heavy bombing against Iran over the weekend, citing what he said were appeals from regional powers and Tehran.

The Iranian foreign ministry said Monday that the only talks it was holding were with Oman to discuss plans for sharing

control over the Strait of Hormuz, a vital passage for the global energy trade.

Trump insisted Iran had asked for talks -- "some would say 'beg'" -- but was now giving "their usual blather" about controlling Hormuz.

The strait, Trump insisted, "is already completely controlled by the United States Navy and our 'Blockade' or, as some say, 'The United States Wall of Steel!'"

Nothing gets through to Iran, unless we want it to, and nothing will get through, unless a Deal, or Total Surrender, is accomplished."

Trump launched a war, together with Israel, against Iran on February 28.

Original goals included destruction of the country's nuclear industry, missiles and backing for a popular uprising against the government.

Detained Suu Kyi meets Red Cross official in Myanmar



AFP | Yangon, Myanmar

Myanmar's detained democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi met with the nation's Red Cross representative on Monday, the president's office said, the first publicised meeting between her and a foreign official since she was ousted in a 2021 military coup.

"Mr. Arnaud de Baeque, the Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Myanmar, met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi this morning," said a statement from the president's office.

The military deposed Suu Kyi in February 2021, jailing the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and triggering an ongoing civil war.

The coup leader and former junta chief, Min Aung Hlaing,

was installed as civilian president in April following highly restricted elections.

Later that month, Suu Kyi, now 81, was moved to house arrest after Min Aung Hlaing said he had commuted the rest of her sentence.

She was detained following the coup on a host of charges which rights groups say were confected to sideline her.

In photos released by the president's office, Suu Kyi is seen shaking hands with a man who appears to be de Baeque.

Another image shows Suu Kyi cutting a birthday cake, and yet another shows the cake with text reading: "Happy Birthday Aunty Suu".

The images could not be immediately verified by AFP but AI tools found no instances of fabrication.

Trump attorney general pick looks set to clear US Senate hurdle

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer Todd Blanche appeared on track to become the next US attorney general after two Republican senators dropped their opposition to his nomination.

Blanche's Senate confirmation has been held up by concerns from senators John Cornyn and Thom Tillis over a \$1.8 billion fund for alleged victims of politically motivated prosecution and a tax audit immunity deal with the Republican president.

Blanche issued a written order over the weekend scrapping the so-called "anti-weaponization fund" and said the audit immunity agreement with Trump, his two eldest sons and the Trump Organization would only apply "retroactively" to past tax years and not future filings.

Cornyn and Tillis, both of whom are leaving the Senate in January, welcomed Blanche's moves in a statement on Monday and said they "look forward to voting to advance his nomination out of the Senate Judiciary Committee soon."

A vote in the committee, where Republicans hold a narrow 12-10 majority, is scheduled today.

Wildfire flares up again in Greece as water bombers deployed



Firefighters drive a fire truck as they attempt to extinguish a wildfire in the Veniza area, west of Athens, in the Viotia region

AFP | Kryo Pigadi, Greece

Flames flared up again in Greece on Monday, as wildfires that have raged west of Athens for four days remained a threat despite easing winds and the deployment of firefighting aircraft.

Wildfires that have raged for four days west of Athens remained a threat on Monday, with flames flaring up again despite easing winds and the deployment of firefighting aircraft.

Firefighters reported a slight

improvement in conditions earlier in the day, but authorities later warned of fresh flare-ups on one of the main fire fronts near Megara, about 30 kilometres (19 miles) west of the capital.

"The wind has eased in the area, but in Kandyli there are still gusts and currents created by rising hot air, and we are seeing the fire flare up again," Megara mayor Panagiotis Margetis told AFP.

For now, there had been no damage to homes or businesses

in the villages of Kandyli and Agia Skepi, around 50 kilometres west of Athens, he said.

But the fire was "constantly changing direction" and moving closer to Megara's industrial zone, creating a "very dangerous" situation, Margetis told state broadcaster ERT.

The fire brigade confirmed that the blaze had intensified on Monday afternoon.

"That is normal because there are still active hotspots," a fire service source told AFP.

1821

Russian Antarctic expedition led by Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen returns to Kronstadt after being the first to circumnavigate Antarctica

1914

US President Woodrow Wilson issues his "Proclamation of Neutrality" to keep the United States out of the war in Europe



1942

The first train carrying Jews departs from Mechelen, Belgium, for Auschwitz

1944

Anne Frank is arrested in Amsterdam by German Security Police (Grüne Polizei) following a tip-off from an informer who is never identified

X

TOP
4
TWEETS

01



We've already endured a summer of extreme heat, but @WMO forecasts hotter & drier conditions from South America to South Asia, Europe, Africa & beyond, driving even more severe effects worldwide. We need to #ActNow to protect people & tackle the root cause of the crisis.

@antonioguterres

02



My thoughts are with the friends and families of the Greek and Danish wildfire pilots who tragically died earlier today in a collision with another helicopter while on duty in Greece. I wish a full recovery to those injured. It takes a special courage to fly towards the flames so that others can be safe. As we continue to battle these fires side by side, Europe grieves with Greece and Denmark.

@vonderleyen

03



We are committed to protecting our external borders, and to supporting Spain. When our external borders come under pressure, the European response must be determined, fast and united. Solidarity is key.

@magnusbrunner

04



Happy National Day, #Switzerland! Every milestone @WHO has reached has been made possible, in part, by the country that has hosted us with such grace. Switzerland's support has never wavered, and neither has our gratitude.

@DrTedros

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)

Israel objects to US-backed Gaza plan



A Palestinian child rides his bicycle past the rubble of destroyed buildings in Gaza City

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israel voiced objections yesterday over a plan promoted by President Donald Trump to end the Gaza war, with a cabinet member seeking to tear it up, defying pressure to end strikes and begin pulling forces from the Palestinian territory.

It was the latest sign of disconnect between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces a tough re-election fight in October and has heavily promoted his relationship with the US leader, whom he met again in Washington last week.

Netanyahu's office demanded "verifiable" disarmament by Hamas, which on Friday announced it would give up weapons under the Trump plan to a nascent Palestinian governing committee.

"Israel has conveyed its com-

ments and concerns on the proposed framework to our American counterparts. The version that has been made public does not reflect Israel's positions," Doron Spielman, spokesman for the prime minister's office, told AFP.

Incensing Netanyahu's hard-right allies -- upon whom his coalition depends -- the latest document released by the Board of Peace, the Trump-backed group in charge of implementing a Gaza plan, called for Israel to cease military operations "without delay" and lays out a "phased withdrawal" from the territory.

Saying that such language was "completely different" from what Israel understood, far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and a colleague demanded that Netanyahu's security cabinet "immediately" hold a new vote on the Gaza plan.

Israel still controls some 60 percent of the territory despite a ceasefire declared in October. An Israeli political source told AFP that Israel "will not retreat" from its current position in the Gaza Strip.

Several Israeli media reports said that Netanyahu met Nickolay Mladenov, the high representative for Gaza under the Board of Peace.



The city of Gaza is one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, with a history stretching back more than 4,000 years.

US regulators grant long-awaited Boeing 737 MAX 7 certificate

New York, United States

More than eight years after Boeing organized the maiden flight of the 737 MAX 7, the aircraft has won certification, US authorities announced yesterday.

The Federal Aviation Ad-

ministration (FAA) announced certification of the smallest version of the single-aisle MAX plane, a process that had been significantly prolonged by new requirements under federal legislation following two fatal MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019.

Kremlin critic Nadezhdin flees Russia for France

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian anti-war politician Boris Nadezhdin -- who was recently detained outside Moscow and blocked from running for parliament -- said Monday he had left the country, in a video posted from Paris.

Nadezhdin was one of the

few politicians who openly criticised President Vladimir Putin and Moscow's Ukraine offensive to have stayed in the country.

Almost all of Putin's critics are in jail, in exile or dead.

Nadezhdin had been seeking to stand in tightly controlled parliamentary elections in September.



Tanker off Oman reports explosion near vessel: monitor

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The master of a tanker off the coast of Oman has reported hearing an explosion near the vessel, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Centre reported Sunday.

"The vessel and crew are all reported as safe," said the UKMTO. The master is the highest-ranking person on an oil tanker.

The incident happened 20 nautical miles (37 kilometres) northeast of Khasab, in Oman, the monitor added.

"Vessels are advised to transit with caution and report any suspicious activity," the UKMTO advised.

Why Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Is in India and Why the Visit Matters



File photo: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov during a previous meeting in Washington, DC Credits: ANI

TDT | Open/ANI

India's engagement with Central Asia is back in focus as Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov begins a four-day visit to New Delhi aimed at expanding cooperation across trade, investment, connectivity, energy and regional security.

The visit comes at a time when India is seeking to strengthen strategic partnerships across Central Asia, while boosting economic ties with a region that sits at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.

Saidov's schedule includes a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu, participation in a business forum, and wide-ranging bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at Hyderabad House. The discussions are expected to cover political ties, economic cooperation and ways to accelerate bilateral engagement.

The visit builds on a series of high-level exchanges between New Delhi and Tashkent. India and Uzbekistan established diplomatic relations in 1992 and elevated the relationship to a Strategic Partnership

in 2011. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev last met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin in September 2025.

Despite growing political ties, economic engagement remains below potential. Bilateral trade currently stands at around USD 756.6 million, with India ranking among Uzbekistan's top 10 trading partners. India exports pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, vehicle components, optical equipment, mobile phones and frozen buffalo meat, while importing fruits, vegetables, fertilisers, juices and lubricants from Uzbekistan. The relationship has gathered further momentum after both countries signed a bilateral market access protocol in May this year to support Uzbekistan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), a move expected to create fresh opportunities for businesses in both countries.

With trade, connectivity and strategic cooperation high on the agenda, the visit is expected to add another layer to India's growing outreach in Central Asia.

Russian strike burns 8 million books in Ukraine: publisher

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

A Russian strike on a warehouse in northeastern Ukraine over the weekend destroyed eight million books, the publishing house said Monday, slamming it as an attack on Ukrainian culture.

It is not the first time Russia has struck a major publishing centre, drawing accusations from Kyiv that Moscow was specifically targeting them.

"This is the largest loss to Ukraine's book infrastructure since the beginning of the full-scale war" in 2022, the publisher, Ranok, said.

An AFP reporter on Saturday saw firefighters battling to contain the blaze at the warehouse in Kharkiv hours after Russia launched a drone and missile attack.

"More than 8 million books have been destroyed in the fire, among them textbooks

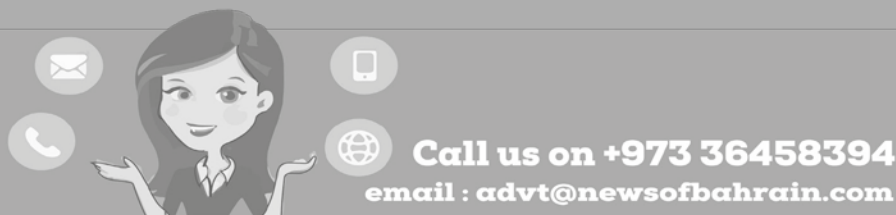


for children," Ranok said in a statement on social media.

"The blaze is still raging. The enemy is trying to burn out our education and culture," it added.

The publisher's director Viktor Kruglov called it an "attack on Ukrainian education and culture."

Classifieds



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region

5.5-magnitude earthquake shakes eastern Egypt



A 5.5-magnitude earthquake struck eastern Egypt early Monday,

sending tremors across the country and into parts of Israel, Jordan and Lebanon, according to monitoring agencies.

Egypt's National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG) said the quake hit at 3:00 am local time, about 40 kilometres north of Suez, revising its initial estimate from 5.2 to 5.5. The German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) recorded a magnitude of 5.4 at a depth of 10 kilometres, while the US Geological Survey later assessed it at magnitude 5.0.

Residents reported feeling the tremor across Cairo, El-Arish near the Gaza border, and parts of southern and central Israel, including Beersheba and areas near Jerusalem. Shaking was also reported in Jordan and Lebanon.

Egyptian Health Minister Khaled Abdel Ghaffar ordered emergency response plans to be activated nationwide and in-

structed ambulance services to remain on maximum alert. Authorities evacuated three families from a damaged building in Cairo's Rod al-Farag district, while the Egyptian Red Crescent responded to reports of a collapsed balcony near the epicentre in Suez and urged residents to avoid unsafe buildings.

The Health Ministry confirmed only one injury linked to the earthquake.

Although earthquakes are relatively rare in Egypt, the country's deadliest modern quake occurred in October 1992, when a magnitude 5.8 earthquake killed more than 500 people and displaced thousands.

In Israel, many Android users received automatic earthquake notifications after the operating system detected widespread simultaneous ground movement. The Israel Geological Survey clarified that the alerts were generated by Android's detection system and were not official warnings issued by the IDF Home Front Command.

GCC Secretary General congratulates staff on master's degrees



GCC Secretary General Al-Jasem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi met with General Secretariat staff members who recently earned master's degrees through a scholarship programme in the People's Republic of China.

During the meeting at the General Secretariat headquarters in Riyadh on Monday, Al-Budaiwi congratulated the graduates on their academic achievement and praised their dedication, wishing them con-

tinued success in their careers. He reaffirmed the General Secretariat's commitment to developing and empowering its workforce through higher education and professional development. Al-Budaiwi said the knowledge and expertise gained by the graduates would strengthen the work of the General Secretariat, support the implementation of joint programmes and initiatives, and contribute to advancing Gulf cooperation.

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New-look Bahrain target Asia Cup return

Subotic era begins as nationals prepare for continental challenges

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national basketball team have stepped up preparations for a crucial period ahead, with the FIBA Asia Cup 2029 Pre-Qualifiers and the 20th Asian Games set to provide early tests under a new coaching regime.

The nationals are continuing their training programme ahead of the opening round of the Asia Cup pre-qualifiers, which will be held in Dubai from August 26 to 31.

The tournament will mark the start of a new chapter for the national team under Greek-Slovenian head coach Slobodan Subotic, who was appointed last month to succeed fellow Greek tactician Georgios Vovoras.

Subotic brings extensive international experience to the role, having previously managed European giants including Panathinaikos, Olympiacos and AEK Athens. He has also led the national teams of Slovenia and Lebanon, adding valuable club



Mustafa Hussain during preparations at Zain Basketball Arena

and international experience to Bahrain's coaching setup. The Bahrainis have been

drawn in Group A alongside hosts the UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Nepal, with the top three



Slobodan Subotic oversees a training session with the national team

teams advancing to the second round of the pre-qualifiers. They begin their campaign

against Oman on August 27 before facing the UAE the following day. After a rest day on August 29,

Bahrain return to action against Nepal on August 30 before wrapping up their group stage against Kuwait on August 31.

The second round, scheduled for November 23 to December 1, will feature 12 teams split into two groups of six. The top four from each group will then advance to the Fiba Asia Cup 2029 Qualifiers, where 24 teams will compete for 16 places at the continental finals.

The final qualifying stage will be played across three windows in November 2027, and February and November 2028.

Following their Dubai assignment, Bahrain will turn their focus towards the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4.

The upcoming competitions will represent Subotic's first major challenges in charge as Bahrain look to return to the Fiba Asia Cup after their last appearance in 2022, when they finished 13th overall in Jakarta, Indonesia. The kingdom has previously qualified for nine editions of the continental championship.

Pegula leads Eala as storms push Washington Open finals



Jessica Pegula reacts during the match

AFP | Washington

World number three Jessica Pegula and rising star Alexandra Eala must wait until late yesterday to decide a Washington Open champion after thunderstorms postponed the completion of Sunday's WTA final.

After waiting through a three-hour thunderstorm delay to start, Pegula won the first set 6-4 and Eala led 2-1 in the second set of the championship match when rain returned.

More than five hours passed with conditions remaining unplayable before organizers called off the resumption of play until late yesterday.

Also postponed was the entire men's final at the WTA and ATP 500-level hardcourt tournament, with 10th-ranked American Taylor Fritz set to face 19-year-old Spaniard Rafael Jodar.

The women's final was set to resume at noon local time (1600 GMT) with the men's final not before 1 p.m. in Washington.

Pegula, who won her first WTA title in 2019 at Washing-

ton, seeks her 12th tour trophy and third of the year after Dubai and Charleston.

The 32-year-old American top seed defeated Eala in a 2025 Miami semi-final in their only prior meeting.

Philippines star Eala, cheered all week by a host of supporters, seeks her first WTA title in her second career final, having lost last year at Eastbourne.

The 21-year-old left-hander is set to jump to a career-best 24th in the world rankings.

Eala ousted former world number one Naomi Osaka, second seed Elina Svitolina and defending champion Leylah Fernandez to reach the final.

Pegula broke Eala in the fifth game, blasting a forehand service return winner, only for Eala to break back at love to 3-3 on a blistering backhand service return winner.

Pegula saved two break points in holding to 4-4, broke again when Eala sent a forehand long in the ninth game and held at love to capture the first set in 40 minutes when Eala hit a backhand beyond the baseline.

Gulf Cup cleared as Bahrain eye title defence

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The 27th Arabian Gulf Cup will go ahead as planned, with no discussions over postponing the tournament, according to Gulf Cup Football Federation secretary-general Jassim Sultan Al Rumaihi.

The tournament is set to kick off in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on September 23, coinciding with the Kingdom's National Day, and will run until October 6.

Al Rumaihi said preparations are progressing on schedule, with the federation working closely with the Saudi Arabian Football Federation and the local organising committee to ensure the event is delivered successfully.

"We are moving according to the planned timeline to organise this major event, which means a lot to the people of the Gulf," Al Rumaihi said.

"We hope everything goes as planned and that the upcoming



Bahrain celebrate their historic Gulf Cup triumph in Kuwait last year

edition will be an ideal tournament and better than previous editions."

The confirmation comes as Bahrain prepare to defend their Gulf Cup title after being drawn into a competitive Group B alongside the UAE, Qatar and Yemen.

Hosts Saudi Arabia headline

Group A, which also includes Iraq, Oman and Kuwait.

Bahrain lifted their second Gulf Cup trophy in the previous edition, held across December 2024 and January 2025, after defeating Oman 2-1 in the final. Their first title came in 2019.

The national team have already begun preparations for a

demanding period ahead, with head coach Dragan Talajic overseeing the squad's build-up for both the Gulf Cup and the AFC Asian Cup 2027.

Following the regional tournament, Bahrain will turn their attention to the continental stage, with the AFC Asian Cup scheduled to take place across three Saudi cities from January 7 to February 5 next year.

The Bahrainis are among the 24 teams competing in the tournament and have been drawn in Group B alongside North Korea, Jordan and Uzbekistan.

Group A features Kuwait, Oman, Palestine and hosts Saudi Arabia, while Group C consists of Iran, Syria, Kyrgyzstan and China.

Group D includes Australia, Tajikistan, Iraq and Singapore, while Group E is made up of South Korea, the UAE, Vietnam and either Lebanon or Yemen.

Defending champions Qatar headline Group F alongside Japan, Thailand and Indonesia.

Chelsea sign England midfielder Jordan Henderson

AFP | London

Chelsea announced the signing of veteran England midfielder Jordan Henderson from Premier League rivals Brentford yesterday.

The former Liverpool captain, who was part of England's World Cup squad at the recent tournament in North America, has signed a two-year deal at Stamford Bridge.

"Given the size of the club, the manager, who I have great admiration for, and the quality of the players, this was a huge opportunity I couldn't turn down," said Henderson.

"I was also so impressed with how much the ownership want Chelsea to be successful and move in the right direction.

"For me, it's about giving



England's Jordan Henderson celebrates during a match (file photo)

everything every single day, both on and off the field, to help the players around me and the team as much as possible. I'm very excited to get going."

It was confirmed last week

that Henderson had had his Brentford contract terminated after it emerged the club's west London rivals Chelsea were interested.

The 36-year-old won the Premier League and Champions

League with Liverpool. He left Anfield for Saudi club Al-Ettifaq in 2023, moving to Ajax six months later.

He returned to the Premier League with Brentford last year, signing a two-year contract.

Henderson, who has won 91 international caps, was part of England's 2026 World Cup squad but played only a handful of minutes, breaking an arm later in the tournament.

He joins Xabi Alonso's squad just two days after Chelsea signed fellow veteran Danny Welbeck from Brighton.

The Blues spent a British-record £117 million (\$157 million) to sign Morgan Rogers from Aston Villa last month and have also landed France defender Maxence Lacroix and Atalanta defender Marco Palestra.

Zverev remains wary of 12-day Masters events

World number two says longer tournaments leave players fatigued before US Open

- Zverev warns of player burnout risks
- Criticises length of Masters 1000 events
- Several top stars skip Canadian Open

AFP | Montreal

Alexander Zverev warned on Sunday of burnout and dropouts due to overly long ATP Masters 1000 events as he returned to the scene of his 2017 title in Canada.

The top seed and world number two told reporters in Montreal that he has his doubts about the wisdom of the 12-day Masters tournaments, which can seem as long and draining to players as a Grand Slam fortnight.

This edition of the elite Canadian hard court tournament is missing world number one Jannik Sinner, 24-time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic and Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, who has not played since April due to a wrist injury.

"I think (the pullouts) are a result of the two-week Masters event. I think it's just too long for some players, too much before the US Open," Zverev said.

"I used to play more 500 events, 250 events when the Masters were shorter, but now



Alexander Zverev reacts during a match (file photo)

I don't do that anymore just because of time spent away and time spent on tournaments."

Zverev said that he and his team also seriously considered bypassing Canada this year.

"We had a thought also of maybe skipping Montreal, but then we decided to play it

But the reigning Roland Garros champion and Wimbledon finalist last month added: "I need to play matches. I need to play tournaments.

"I don't think maybe I'll play my best tennis here, but the result of playing here, I think I'll

play better in Cincinnati and then hopefully my best tennis in New York," he said, looking ahead to the US Open that starts on August 31.

Despite fatigue, the 29-year-old is hoping to take his summer momentum into the North American hard court build-up before the final major of the season.

"The two months that I had was fantastic. Of course, I wanted to win Wimbledon, I wanted to win the final (against Sinner).

"But I played an opponent who also knows how to play in



Alexander Zverev revealed he previously played more ATP 250 and 500 events when Masters tournaments were shorter, but stopped due to excessive time spent away on expanded schedules

these moments, and he played a phenomenal match, a great match which could have gone a bit longer. I feel like it could have gone in the fifth set.

"I played a lot of tennis in that period. So I went on holidays for a week and then after started practicing and preparing myself the best I can for this swing."

Zverev leads the tournament field, with Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime seeded second ahead of Australian Alex de Minaur, Daniil Medvedev and title holder Ben Shelton.

With rain marring the opening day in the French-speaking city, completed matches were a rarity, with China's number 270 Jerry Shang defeating Daniel Vallejo of Paraguay 6-3, 6-3 before afternoon rains set in.

‘Sanctions won’t solve problem of bloated events’

Alexander Zverev said that money won't solve the problem of big-name absentees as the ATP Montreal Masters kicked off on Sunday without Jannik Sinner, Novak Djokovic and injured Carlos Alcaraz.

Amid their frustration, Canadian officials have called for financial and other player sanctions over the series of late withdrawals from the first of two major events prior to the August 31 start of the US Open.

But Zverev said throwing dollars at the problem will make zero difference to any of the trio of elite multimillionaires.



You think Novak will care if he gets a bigger bonus? I think the guy has -- if I would have to guess, the guy is north of 400 million (dollars) in his bank account. I'm not sure he would care about 50,000 more or less

ALEXANDER ZVEREV

"It's not rocket science," the Wimbledon runner-up said. "We get bonuses at the end of the year if we play all nine Masters.

"You think Novak will care if he gets a bigger bonus? I think the guy has -- if I would have to guess, the guy is north of 400 million (dollars) in his bank account.

"I'm not sure he would care about 50,000 more or less."

Zverev said that also applied to ranking level for the 39-year-old Serb, who owns 24 Grand Slam singles titles

and has career prize money earnings alone approaching \$200 million.

"I don't think he cares about his ranking either. I honestly don't think so," Zverev added of Djokovic, currently ranked number five in the world.

Zverev said weary players would be more likely to be tempted back if the Masters events that have swelled to 11, 12 or even 13 days were scaled back to a week.

"If you're forcing us to be away for two and a half, three weeks during Grand Slams and the same then goes for Masters events, you can't force us to play. Sorry, that's nonsense."

Sabalenka aims to bounce back in Toronto after Wimbledon disappointment

AFP | Toronto

Aryna Sabalenka's world number one ranking will be on the line at the WTA 1000 tournament in Toronto, where the Belarusian star aims to extend her hard court dominance in the build up to her US Open title defense.

Sabalenka has won 23 of her 24 hard court matches this year, the lone defeat her loss to Elena Rybakina in the Australian Open final.

But she was turfed out in the quarter-finals on the clay of Roland Garros and fell to Naomi Osaka in the round of 16 on the grass courts of Wimbledon.

If Sabalenka fails to reach the round of 16 in Toronto, Kazakhstan's Rybakina can rise to number one if she lifts the trophy.

Sabalenka has never made it past the semi-finals in Canada, which alternates each year between Montreal and Toronto, but she said she was feeling rested and ready to reassert herself after taking time off in the wake of her All England Club exit.

"Clay and grass, I wouldn't say they were that bad," she said. "I was trying a couple of things, didn't go the way that I expected. And now we're kind of back to basics and I really hope it's going to work out well."

Sabalenka had exited Wimbledon saying she wanted to "forget about tennis".

She did that with a summer holiday on the Greek island of Mykonos.

"I think the rest was



Aryna Sabalenka waves to fans after a match (file photo)

much-needed," she told reporters on Sunday. "I spent there five, six days maybe. I felt much better, I couldn't wait to get back on court and start working towards my goals for this swing."

Sabalenka heads a top half of the draw that also includes two-time winner Jessica Pegula, the third seed, 2024 finalist Amanda Anisimova and seventh-seeded Iga Swiatek of Poland.

Former world number one Swiatek, a six-time Grand Slam champion, will be aiming to regroup after slumping to a third-round defeat at Wimbledon.

Rybakina anchors a bottom half of the draw that also includes fourth-seeded Coco Gauff, four-time Grand Slam champion Osaka and newly crowned Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova.

Czech Noskova, who broke into the top 10 after winning her first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon, is seeded sixth and could face another rising star in the Philippines' Alexandra Eala in the third round.

They have met twice already this year, with Noskova winning both times.

Wimbledon runner-up Karolina Muchova is among the notable absentees as she recovers from a minor surgery.

Reigning champion Victoria Mboko of Canada, who thrilled Montreal fans with her run to a first WTA title last year, remains sidelined with the knee injury that forced her out of Wimbledon.

Tricky schedule

The ATP Masters 1000 in Montreal this week has also



Clay and grass, I wouldn't say they were that bad," she said. "I was trying a couple of things, didn't go the way that I expected. And now we're kind of back to basics and I really hope it's going to work out well

ARYNA SABALENKA

been hit by high-profile defections, including that of Wimbledon champion Jannik Sinner.

Sabalenka said the scheduling is "tricky" for any player that does well in the grass court season, with the Canadian tournaments followed by a 1000-level event in Cincinnati in a schedule that offers little respite before the US Open begins on August 30.

"If you go far at the grass court (season) you feel really fatigued and you're not able to pull out any good tennis so what's the reason of coming when your body is really so much stress," she said. "It's very tricky, but this year I didn't do well so I'm here."

All 32 seeded players received first-round byes.

Play got underway on Sunday with Japanese qualifier Moyuka Uchijima booking a second-round meeting with Sabalenka with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Spain's Cristina Bucsa.

Greaves steadies West Indies in second test against Pakistan



Justin Greaves of West Indies in action

AFP | Port of Spain

Justin Greaves made an unbeaten 64 to steer West Indies to 239-5 at stumps on a rain-shortened opening day of the second and final Test against Pakistan in Trinidad on Sunday.

After a match-winning display with the ball in the first Test last week, Greaves displayed what has now become his trademark ease and composure at the crease in a battling knock at Queen's Park Oval.

His only error of judgement came just after reaching the half-century mark when opposing captain Babar Azam put down a straightforward chance at leg-slip off spinner Sajid Khan.

Greaves at that time was almost hobbling after a left leg injury sustained while completing a sharp run that necessitated lengthy treatment on the field.

His sixth-wicket partnership with Roston Chase (36 not out) was worth 66 runs at the close of play and Greaves will be hoping for a return to his usual athletic mobility when he resumes the innings with his captain on the second morning.

He had come to the crease in mid-afternoon at 91 for three as Kavem Hodge became Khan's first wicket.

When Amir Jangoo fell to a leg-side catch to give debutant pacer Ubaid Shah his first Test wicket with the first ball of a new spell, Pakistan sensed the chance to break the back of the West Indies resistance.

However Greaves and Shai Hope provided a measure of stability in a 53-run stand until seamer Mohammad Ali, the most impressive of the bowlers on the day, bowled Hope off the inside-edge for 29 to leave the innings in the balance at 173 for five.

Pochettino to stay as USA coach until 2030 World Cup

US Soccer says Pochettino has built trust and belief around the national team

● Pochettino signs new US Soccer contract

● Staff also stay

● Aims to strengthen national programme

AFP | Paris

Mauricio Pochettino has signed a contract extension to remain the head coach of the United States national team until the 2030 World Cup, US Soccer announced yesterday.

The 54-year-old took over in 2024 and led the USA to the last 16 at the recent World Cup, which they co-hosted with Canada and Mexico.

"It has become clear to us that there is tremendous potential to make the men's national team program even stronger," said Argentinian Pochettino, whose coaching staff have also agreed new contracts.

"The passion we experienced from the fans throughout the World Cup only strengthened our belief in what is possible here..."

"We want to try to have a lasting impact on the sport in the



Mauricio Pochettino reacts during a match (file photo)

country that has welcomed us so warmly and for that impact to extend beyond results on the field."

The Americans won three matches at a World Cup for the first time before being knocked out by Belgium, following a huge controversy over FIFA's decision to suspended striker Folarin Balogun's ban for a red card.

Former Tottenham and Paris Saint-Germain boss Pochettino was named coach two years ago, after previous boss Gregg

Berhalter left following a group-stage exit from the 2024 Copa America which the USA hosted.

Pochettino helped turn things around and led the team to the 2025 CONCACAF Gold Cup final, which they lost 2-1 to Mexico.

He had been linked with a return to European club football, but will instead stay with the US until the next World Cup, slated to be largely held in Spain, Portugal and Morocco.

"Mauricio has built a culture where players trust the group,



trust the process and trust each other," said US Soccer president Cindy Parlow Cone.

"We saw the impact of that belief in the way the team grew, competed and performed on the world's biggest stage."

The USA have not reached the quarter-finals of a men's World Cup since 2002, and hopes were high a partisan home crowd could carry them to at least that stage.

But after the Balogun affair, a fired-up Belgium quashed those hopes last month with a crushing 4-1 victory.

Leeds rally for 4-2 friendly win over Liverpool



Dominic Calvert-Lewin #9 of Leeds United scores past Giorgi Mamardashvili #25 of Liverpool

AFP | Chicago

Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored two of Leeds' four second-half goals as they rallied for a 4-2 friendly win over Liverpool at Soldier Field in Chicago.

The stunning comeback saw Liverpool handed their first defeat under new coach Andoni Iraola, who arrived this summer from Bournemouth to replace the sacked Arne Slot.

Liverpool had notched a 4-2 win over Sunderland and a 1-0 victory against Wrexham at Yankee Stadium in the first two matches of their US tour.

They looked in control on Sunday with a pair of first-half goals before Leeds stormed back against their English Premier League rivals.

US midfielder Brenden Aaronson launched the fightback in the 60th minute and Calvert-Lewin pulled Leeds level

in the 71st, firing in at the back post after Joe Rodon flicked on a long Ethan Ampadu throw.

Sean Longstaff's scuffling finish in the 73rd gave Leeds a 3-2 lead and Calvert-Lewin made it 4-2 with a near-replica of his first goal in the 85th, when Ampadu's throw was sent on by Sebastian Bornauw and he headed in.

The victory was Leeds' second on their US tour, which opened with a 3-2 loss to Wrexham in Tampa, Florida before a 1-0 victory over Sunderland in New Jersey.

Liverpool had opened the scoring in the seventh minute when Dominik Szoboszlai's corner was flicked on by Milos Kerkez and slammed home by Luke Chambers from six yards out.

Florian Wirtz doubled the tally in the 40th minute, tucking in a cross from Jeremie Frimpong.

Welsh FA withdraws support for Infantino's FIFA re-election bid

AFP | London

Wales yesterday became the first nation to publicly withdraw support for FIFA president Gianni Infantino's re-election bid over his failed plan to sell off stakes in the World Cup.

Infantino had offered its 211 member associations \$40 million each if they backed proposals for private investment in its tournaments, including the men's and women's World Cups.

But he was forced to scrap his plan after a furious backlash from three continental confederations.

The Football Association of Wales said yesterday it would not back Infantino's candidature in the election in Rabat, Morocco, in March 2027.

"The Football Association of Wales hereby confirms its withdrawal of support for the candidature of Mr Gianni Infantino, for re-election as FIFA president for the 2027-2031 term," the FAW said in a statement.

"The recent failures in good governance, processes, leadership, values, stakeholder management, communications and sound judgement have led us



Gianni Infantino

to a position where Mr Infantino has lost the confidence of the FAW to remain at the helm of world football.

"Failing to put the best interests of football first is a failure we cannot accept."

The English FA is also understood to have written to FIFA making it clear it no longer supports Infantino.

English football's governing body issued a statement on Saturday saying it "fully supported" the position of UEFA, which said Infantino had lost the "confidence" of the European governing body.

North and Central American football's governing body, CONCACAF called for a "comprehensive reckoning with" Infantino's leadership while the Asian Football Confederation pleaded for transparency.

Cycling superstar Pogacar to ride in Vuelta

AFP | Barcelona

Slovenian cycling great Tadej Pogacar will bid to win the one Grand Tour missing from his achievements the Vuelta a Espana when he rides in this year's race for the first time since 2019, his team announced yesterday.

"It's true - he's coming back," wrote the five-time Tour de France winner's UAE Team Emirates on social media platform X to announce his participation in the race which starts on August 22.

The 27-year-old Slovenian will be favourite to triumph in the gruelling 21-stage race which begins in his home city of Monaco.

Pogacar came third in the



Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar celebrates his overall victory in this year's Tour de France

2019 Vuelta and won three stages to announce himself to the

cycling world. "I'm excited to say I'm going

back to La Vuelta. It was my first ever Grand Tour back in 2019 and an amazing experience," Pogacar told the UAE Team Emirates website.

"Spain is a country I love to visit and race in and I think the time is right to go back.

"The motivation is high to finish off the year in a good way and the Vuelta will be a big target. The team is strong and we hope to do good things."

Pogacar, who won the Tour de France in style in July, could become only the fourth rider to win both that and La Vuelta in the same year, and only the ninth to win all three Grand Tours in their career.

He won the Giro in 2024.

Injured Indian pacer Bumrah ruled out of Sri Lanka

AFP | New Delhi

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the upcoming Test series in Sri Lanka due to a knee injury, the country's cricket board said yesterday.

Aquib Nabi, the up-and-coming pace bowler from Jammu and Kashmir, replaces Bumrah in the 15-member team, which will play a warm-up game before their opening Test in Galle from August 15.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India said Bumrah "has not yet fully recovered



Jasprit Bumrah

from the left knee injury sustained during the ODI series against England" last month.

Nabi, who claimed 104 wickets across the last two domestic Ranji Trophy seasons, earns his maiden call-up to the senior national team.

The 29-year-old Nabi was also part of the India A squad that toured Sri Lanka recently, in which he claimed six wickets in two first-class matches.

The 32-year-old Bumrah has not bowled since the second ODI of the England series in Cardiff on July 16 due to an impact injury he suffered in the match.

India, led by Shubman Gill, will play the second Test in Colombo on August 23-27.